DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 438 620 EA 030 260

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| AUTHOR | Comer, James P., Ed.; Ben-Avie, Michael, Ed.; Haynes, Norris M., Ed.; Joyner, Edward T., Ed. |
| TITLE | Child by Child: The Comer Process for Change in Education. |
| ISBN | ISBN-0-8077-3868-9 |
| PUB DATE | 1999-00-00 |
| NOTE | 336p.; Foreword by Lois Jean White. |
| AVAILABLE FROM | Teachers College Press, P.O. Box 20, Williston, VT 05495-0020 (hardbound: ISBN-0-8077-3869-7, $44; paperbound: ISBN-0-8077-3868-9, $19.95). Tel: 800-575-6566 (Toll Free); Fax: 802-864-7626; e-mail: tcp.orders@aidcvt.com; Web site: http://tc-press.tc.columbia.edu/noframes.html. |
| PUB TYPE | Books (010) -- Collected Works - General (020) |
| EDRS PRICE | Document Not Available from EDRS. |
| DESCRIPTORS | *Developmental Stages; *Educational Change; Educational Improvement; Educational Innovation; Elementary Secondary Education; Excellence in Education; *Improvement Programs; Instructional Improvement; Program Descriptions; Student Evaluation; Student Welfare |
| IDENTIFIERS | *Comer School Development Program |

ABSTRACT

This book examines the broader aspects of promoting children's learning and development through the Comer Process. The Comer Process, a schoolwide intervention formulated by James P. Comer, centers on healthy child development as the keystone to academic achievement and life success. The text focuses on the Yale School Development Program (SDP), a comprehensive program for systemic reform. Charged with implementing the Comer Process in school communities, the SDP brings together people who are experienced in working with youth at different developmental stages. Parents, school staff, community members, guidance counselors, and the whole school community join together to effect change in a school. The book is divided into three parts. Part 1, "Improving Children's Lives," discusses accountability, why school communities need in-depth knowledge about students' lives outside the classroom, the importance of parents as partners in education, and the success stories of students and administrators. Part 2, "Professional Development and Consultation," outlines the planned academics that support adults working in SDP schools, the Comer Facilitator in action, university-school community-foundation partnerships, and personal reflections on the process. The last part, "Learning, Teaching, and Development in SDP School Communities," describes the Comer classroom, developmental pathways, the student/teacher relationship, and the importance of healthy development in education. (Contains an index.) (RJM)

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